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Dear Friends,

Congressman John Lewis
Introduces Important Legislation

March 8, 2007, was World Kidney Day!!!

I wanted to take this opportunity to inform you that I have introduced **The Kidney Care Quality and Education Act of 2007 ([H.R. 1193](#))** on February 27, 2007, in order to improve the way the Medicare Program provides services to Americans with kidney failure, also known as End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD). Chronic

kidney disease is a devastating, yet preventable illness. That's why education is such an important component of any attempt to address it. The bill would establish patient education and disease management programs within the Medicare system to inform patients about ways to identify and manage kidney disease and prevent kidney failure.

Nationwide, 1 in 9 Americans suffers from chronic kidney disease. Many of these people may also have untreated hypertension or diabetes, which can progress to kidney failure or end stage renal disease (ESRD) if left untreated. More than 400,000 Americans with ESRD

In This Issue

- » [John Lewis Leads the Kidney Care Act](#)
- » [Telephone Excise Repeal Act](#)
- » [Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Act](#)
- » [High Performance Building Act](#)

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must rely on dialysis or receive a kidney transplant to live. African Americans run a high risk of contracting both diseases and currently comprise 30 percent of all Americans suffering from kidney failure. ([Read More](#))

Last week I introduced a bill that repeals a 107-year-old, outdated tax and which is only paid by Americans who can least afford extra charges to their bills. It is called the **Telephone Excise Repeal Act of 2007 ([H.R. 1194](#))** and several of my colleagues joined me as lead sponsors on the bill Rep. Jim Ramstad (MN), Rep. Rick Boucher (VA) and Rep. Gary Miller (CA).

The telephone Federal Excise Tax (FET) was originated in 1898 as a "luxury" tax to fund the Spanish American War. While it may have made sense then, there is no question that telecommunication services today are necessities, not luxuries. Recently, the tax was repealed for bundled telephone services, but remains in force for the most vulnerable consumers. Today, the FET places a disproportionate burden on low-income, rural, and lifeline telephone subscribers who can only afford local telephone service. As more and more Americans buy bundled communication services, the projected tax revenue collected from the FET continues to decrease significantly. Over time it represents a diminishing revenue stream for the federal government, while burdening those who need phone services the most with unnecessary charges.

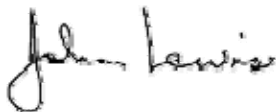
On February 8th, 2007, Rep. John Lewis, Senators Christopher Dodd (CT) and Patrick Leahy (VT) and Kenny Hulshof (MO) reintroduced the bipartisan, bicameral ***Emmett Till***

unsolved murders from the Civil Rights era. This legislation would increase resources and develop a framework for collaboration between state and local officials and federal government on these heinous crimes. Congressman Lewis is committed to passing this legislation in the upcoming months and helping to bring healing, justice, and peace to the affected families, friends, communities, and our nation as a whole.


Last week I once again introduced a bill to reduce energy consumption and improve the health of millions of families who live in affordable housing units. The High Performance Buildings Act encourages communities to include sustainable development in their strategic housing plans and provides grants to non-profit organizations that increase sustainable development capacity in low-income communities. By reducing the amount of energy used without changing their lifestyles, families will be able to pay less for energy and reduce their carbon footprint on our planet.

The High Performance Building Act was introduced on March 1, 2007, as [H.R. 1259](#). Joining me as original sponsors of this bill are Congressmen Adam Smith (WA), Earl Blumenauer (OR), and Wayne Gilchrest (MD). ([Read More](#))

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Lewis". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

John Lewis
Member of Congress

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